

**Merchant & Gould**

An Intellectual Property Law Firm

3200 IDS Center  
80 South Eighth Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
55402-2215 USA  
TEL 612.332.5300  
FAX 612.332.9081  
www.merchant-  
gould.com

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JAN 26 2005**

A Professional Corporation

**Fax Transmission** | January 26, 2005

TO: Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Examiner UHLIR  
Patent Examining Corps  
Facsimile Center  
Washington, D.C. 20231

FROM: Douglas P. Mueller

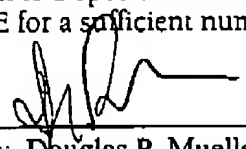
OUR REF: 10873.792USD1  
TELEPHONE: 612.371.5237

Total pages, including cover letter: 3PTO FAX NUMBER 1-703-872-9306

If you do NOT receive all of the pages, please telephone us at 612.336.4638, or fax us at 612.332.9081.

Title of OFFICIAL Document Transmitted: Response to Restriction Requirement  
Applicant: HIRAMOTO et al.  
Serial No.: 10/848,742  
Filed: 05/17/04  
Group Art Unit: 1773  
Confirmation No. 7331  
Our Ref. No.: 10873.792USD1

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate.

By:   
Name: Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No.: 30,300

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

  
Sender's Name: Gina Dahl

January 26, 2005  
Date

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTERJAN 26 2005 PATENT

S/N 10/848,742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HIRAMOTO ET AL.	Examiner:	UHLIR
Serial No.:	10/848,742	Group Art Unit:	1773
Filed:	MAY 17, 2004	Docket No.:	10873.792USD1
Title:	MAGNETO-RESISTIVE ELEMENT		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 26, 2005.

By:   
Name: Gina M. Dahl

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-3, 5, 12-17, 39, 41, 42, 45, 47, 48, 51, 61-63, 65, 66, 69, 71, and 72) in response to the Restriction Requirement of December 30, 2004.

Applicants traverse the requirement to the extent of requesting that claim 59 in Group II that corresponds to allowable Group I claims be reinstated for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

S/N 10/848,742

PATENT

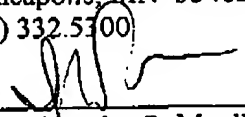
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332.5300

Dated: January 20, 2005

By:   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
Customer No. 23552

DPM/gmd